

LECTURER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

In November

- At the request of the LAC, the Human Research Protection Office (HRPO) hosted a workshop on the essentials of IRB applications and PI waivers for lecturers. The session covered PI eligibility waiver requests, what must be submitted to the IRB, IRB review criteria, students as researchers, and the turnaround time for IRB review. Lecturers were encouraged to contact the IRB (askirb@columbia.edu) with questions. The online workshop was recorded and the HRPO will share a link to the recording soon.
- The LAC hosted our Fall Semester Town Hall, where we shared updates with the community on key issues affecting lecturers. This included news from the A&S administration on topics such as changes to the additional compensation rules, the new committee responsible for lecturer review and promotion, and PI status, among others. We encouraged colleagues to share the news of their awards and grants, so we can highlight them in our monthly newsletter. Additionally, we sought input from the community regarding mentorship and office hours. Finally, we invited colleagues to run for the LAC in Spring 2025, as there will be five available seats: three for Humanities, one for Social Sciences, and one for the School of Professional Studies.



THE LAC WISHES YOU HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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FEATURED LECTURER

Celebrations

Office of the Provost Teaching and Learning Grant for Innovative Course Design, 2024

- Sarah DeMoya, Lecturer in the Discipline of Psychology
- Alfredo Spanga, Lecturer in the Discipline of Psychology and Director of Undergraduate Studies (Neuroscience & Behavior)

Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching, 2024

- Katherine Fox-Glassman, Lecturer in the Discipline of Psychology and Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Agnieszka Legutko, Senior Lecturer in Yiddish in the Department of Germanic Languages and Director of the Yiddish Language Program

WE ARE INCREDIBLY PROUD OF ALL THE LECTURER AWARDEES!

Featured Lecturer



AGNIESZKA LEGUTKO, SENIOR LECTURER IN YIDDISH DIRECTOR OF THE YIDDISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Congratulations on receiving the Lenfest Distinguished Faculty Award and the Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2024! Could you tell us about the core principles that guide your teaching?

Thank you! Getting the two awards in the same year was truly mind-blowing, and I am extremely grateful for this recognition of my commitment to the students and our program. One of my core principles is to enrich students' classroom experience with extracurricular programming. Teaching Yiddish – a language with a unique status (no state, no TV, radio, and film, limited online media), dialectically diverse speaking population, and very few opportunities for interactions with native speakers – presents pedagogical challenges and makes it necessary to go outside of the classroom to explore the Yiddish world. In addition to organizing field trips in New York, I engage students with [Mapping Yiddish New York](#), a digital humanities project documenting Yiddish cultural history of the city. Moreover, with the help of external funding, I was able to create two fully-funded fellowship opportunities, and these have been the most significant contributions to the Yiddish program expansion. One of them, [the Naomi Fellowship](#), the Yiddish study abroad program, offers students a unique immersive opportunity to “Explore Yiddishland” in a study-trip led by me, and to learn Yiddish at an intensive Yiddish summer program at Tel Aviv University. It has been especially uplifting to see how this opportunity transforms students into “ambassadors of Yiddish,” and reinforces their commitment to the study of the Yiddish language, literature and culture.

Can you tell us a little about yourself?

I was born and raised in Krakow, Poland, where I did my Masters in English Language and Literature, specializing in Language Pedagogy and Translation Studies. In college, I fell in love with works by Isaac Bashevis Singer, the only Yiddish writer to receive the Nobel Prize in literature, and I started learning Yiddish to read him in the original. Through Singer's oeuvre, I discovered the beautiful and largely unexplored world of Yiddish literature. I wrote my MA thesis about Polish and English translations of his short story, “The Last Demon,” and that is how my Yiddish journey began. I consider myself incredibly lucky to be able to share my passion for all things Yiddish with Columbia and Barnard students, and to teach Yiddish in New York City, which is so rich in Yiddish history and culture.

What advice would you give to lecturers new at Columbia?

As a Talmudic saying has it: “Much have I learned from my teachers, more from my colleagues, but most from my students.” We are so lucky to be at Columbia, a global leader in academic excellence, and it's been a privilege for me to collaborate with brilliant colleagues and be inspired by exceptional students. So my advice would be: connect with fellow faculty – you never know which conversation will be transformative for you – and be open to the insights of your students.